BIS laboratories not accredited

702 SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether itis a fact that Bureau of Indian Standards and none of its recognised laboratories has, till date acquired accreditation for testing and caliberation which is indispensible to measure the accuracy of the specifications of the ISI standards :

(b) whether it is also a fact that some business houses like Bajaj, Laxman, Singer, Usha Shriram, Crompton are using ISI marks their brand name while they are not manufacturers of the electrical appliances reserved for small sector :

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has permitted these business houses to use the ISI mark in open violation of the legal provisions and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these business houses buy ISI marked appliances from small sector in their brand names and then re-sell them at high profits ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) No, Sir. Periodic calibration of testing and measuring instruments is carried out by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as required under the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976. Accreditation of BIS Laboratories is not a legal requirement. However, the Chemical and Mechanical Laboratories of BIS are already accredited under the accreditation scheme of the Deptt. of Science & of Technology. Accreditation of electrical laboratory could not come through as the accreditation scheme was kept in abeyance for sometime due to its restructuring in alignment with European Standards. The accreditation scheme has since become operational again and steps have already been initiated to seek accreditation of BIS laboratories at the earliest. All the outside laboratories which are recognized by BIS for testing work are verified for their maintaining calibrated testing and measuring instruments/equipments.

(b) and (c) Only BIS Certification Marks Licensee is permitted to apply the Standard Mark on the products conforming to the relevant Indian Standard and covered in the licence. BIS requires the licensees to put on the products Certification Marks Licence No. in association with the Standard Mark to identify the source of manufacture. The licensee on his own may enter into marketing agreement with the owner of the brand names for sale of his products.

(d) BIS does not interfere in marketing arrangements/agreements and also with the pricing of the products.

Statement regarding price rise control and availability of essential items

703. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have stated that it will find out the names of the items whose prices are increasing and take steps to contain their prices and ensure easy availability by importing those items ;

(b) if so, the names of the items whose prices have increased in the recent past and availability of which is also scarce; and

(c) the steps taken to contain the prices of those items and to make them available to the public without difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) The monitoring of prices, availability of selected essential commodities and the steps to be taken for augmenting their availability through increasing indigenous production and also resorting to imports is an on-going activity. At present, the supply position of essential commodities like rice, wheat, tea, sugar, edible oils and coarse grains etc. is comfortable . Due to the existing gap between demand and supply, the import of sugar, selected edible oils, pulses and cotton has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL), with a view to increasing their domestic availability and to also keeping their prices under check.

(c) The Government has given highest priority for controlling the rise in prices within reasonable limits. The Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Monitoring of Prices reviews the price scenario and advises the concerned authorities to take appropriate and timely action. Efforts are being made to increase the productionl Commodities which are in short supply are being imported to supplement their easy availability in the market. Imports of sugar, palmolein and cotto n have been placed under Open General Licence (OGL). Public Distribution System is being strengthened and streamlined so that its banefits reach even in the inaccessible areas. State Governments/U.T. Administrations are advised from time to time to take stringent action against hoarders, black-marketeers and such anti- social elements under the Essential Commodities Act and simlar other legislations.

Ban on export of Onions

704. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had taken decision to ban the export of onions sometime back ;

(b) whether the ban was withdrawn after sometime;

(c) if so, the reasons for banning the export and then lifting the same; and

(d) the Prices at which the onion has been selling in the country in the last 12 months, month-wise and how does the same compare with the prices during the preceding year ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) The expts of onions from the country were temporarily suspended for a brief period with effect from 22-10-1994.

(c) The exports of onions were temporarily suspended so as to improve the domestic availability of onions and the suspension was revoked immediately after the supply position of onions had improved.

(d) A comperative statement indicting the retail prices of onions at selected centres on a monthwise basis is in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 172, Annexure No. 19].